

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1734
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2005
INSTITUTION OF CDS
Saroj Shri Daroga Prasad

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any decision on the institution of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the time by which the decision is expected to be taken in the matter?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) & (b): A Group of Ministers (GoM) was constituted on 17th April 2000 to review the national security system in its entirety. The GoM in their Report on 'Reforming the National Security System', inter alia recommended the establishment of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). The recommendations made in the Report of the GoM were approved by the Government on May 11, 2001 with the modification that a view on the recommendation relating to the institution of the CDS will be taken after consultation with political parties.

(c) Further discussions including a detailed examination of pros and cons of the proposal are considered necessary before the formulation of Government's views on the subject. A decision regarding appointment of the CDS can be taken only after wider consultation with various political parties.